





(2)

its first public display next month when it will be flown over the Royal Palace at Bernigern.

BERNIS (16 Oct. 1901): Finally getting around to important matters of state, the Bernocracy today declared a state of war in existence between Franciana and Germany. The treacherous German attack on Burgundy, right at the height of the grape harvest, was a dastardly trick to pull and severely hurt the quality of the crop this year, causing national feelings against the Germans to climb to the boiling point.

JAMUL: Since when was boiled wine any use?

LOUNENS (23 Oct. 1901): Strange reports are circulating near here that a sect of the rebellious Western Orthodox Church known as the Kesharabians have begun to spread the message throughout the highlands that one Jesus Bar-Shara is coming! To whom this refers or what it means is not known at this time, but all over Franciana the message appears on the walls, the fences, the signs, in the papers, everywhere: JESUS BAR-SHARA IS COMING!

JAMUL: And now, folks, for only \$9.98 you can have your very own Jesus Bar-Shara wrist watch, which runs backwards or forwards at whim. And for an extra \$1. you can get the special 'Never Late' feature: The watch will automatically tell you exactly what to do with every minute of your time; if you disobey, it blows up. (You also get a subscription to NAZIR, except for Rod Walker....)

INTERNATIONAL ENQUIRER, Zurich Edition, 22 Sept. 1901:

"Why is the Teutonic Legion still in Vienna?" is the question on the lips of Europe today. This is the question your International Enquirer reporter is prepared to answer. The reputation of I.E. being what it is, and the exclusiveness of the items published in its European subsidiaries, FORN of Denmark and O'GRAPHY of Belfast, enabled me, through discreet bribery, to obtain entire to the very heart of the Imperial Palace in Vienna. The following is a verbatim account of a conversation between Attilio himself; the Italian naval attache, Admiral Andrea Doria; and a personage I was unable to identify, that personage being seated instead of standing as were Attilio and Doria.

"Don't you worry, honey child," the Emperor's tones were addressed to the out-of-sight listener. "Just 'cause the Teutonic Legion is still in Vienna don't mean we-uns 'll let them Wagnerizing Germans molest and atrocitate our little Lurie gal, ain't that so, Admiral?"

"Si, Imperioso, our 'Reine Rouge' is deeply moved by the plight of her sister Queen. This is why our fleets sail eastward while German armies trample the soil of France. They will dance a different tune when they find themselves outflanked!"

"Be assured....(at this point a loud rush of water, common to the location)." The next words I caught were the Emperor's. "Besides, it's fall now, with winter to follow." You don't think I'll order the Teutons out of the Vienna Barracks, with all the conveniences close by, to move into the northern provinces. You know the soldiers' saying: 'A Vienna night is better than a Bayreuth decade.'"

(Leadballs, Maxims and Proverbs, 14th ed., Keokuk, Iowa 1900.)

"Besides, His Majesty continued, "We're gonna have a Hunnish horde raised in Budapest by spring."



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"And His Holiness, Alexander VII, newly returned from Ethiopia, is even now planning the erection of a Papal Bull in Rome for the Spring offensive," Admiral Doria loudly proclaimed.

I did not catch what came immediately after this as I was distracted by a voice declaiming, "This roll's stripped; Hey, you in the next stall, pass the paper!" I complied with his request, handing him the latest edition of I.E., and was rewarded by the comment, "Hey, that's what this paper is good for!"

Returning from my good deed for the day to my duties as a reporter, I heard the Emperor's final comment: "Gonna havta tell the Tsar to watch hisself. Man-like Colonel Popogord tell the truf and git hisself exiled, where he gonna find another Rusky who tell the truf?"  
JAMUL: To squelch false rumor #303 of the current week, it is emphatically not true that the Austrian Government has fallen to a coup-d'etat led by a rabbit.

JAMUL YET AGAIN: Latest invention by the firm of Sons and Odoaker (also spelled Odoacer, Oddoker, Ottokar, Oscar Wilde, and 'Out, Our!') is a wholly soundless toilet fixture. It is noiseless because it uses no water and no moving parts of any type. Instead, it is made of a special material which reacts chemically with - er - ah - the common contents of such devices, causing the entire shebang to vaporize. The only flaw seems to be high combustability, causing problems for people who smoke on the john. (There's also the little matter that you better get it all out at once, or you're gonna end up on the floor.)

#### INSIDIOUS INTERRUPTION

in the flow of things - you'll pardon the pun

Red Walker and Harry Manogg both advise that the last day to fly the 45-star flag (representatively - they can still be used legally and properly) was 3 July 1908, the day before the 46-star job came into effect to allow for the admission of Oklahoma on 16 Nov. 1907. Now why didn't Eric Just get that? Oops!

HULME, The Flags of the World....pp. 37f.

Any discussion of the Italian flag must of necessity be tenuous, because no one is sure what it is. When Queen Barbara Philippina came to the throne in 1836, she decreed that the flag should be solid black in mourning for her late husband, Childo Polando. However, a solid black flag proved to be a slight disadvantage, since it led to general attacks on all Italian shipping under the impression they were pirates. But at least we all knew what the flag was. When Queen Andrea Philippina succeeded to the throne in 1874, she added a skull-and-crossbones to the flag and, delivering her famous 'all or nothing' speech, declared war on Europe. It was this war which led to the overthrow of the Hapsburgs in 1876 (cf. p.101), the only nation Queen Andrea Philippina ever conquered even partially (her Private Guard slipped into Rome during Christmas night 1875, while Austria's Hessian mercenaries were all drunk).

The accession of Queen Sara-Allenza in 1891 was greeted with almost universal rejoicing, and Her Majesty began to change the flag. Her first creation was a tricolor of Sulphur Yellow, Charcoal Black, and Saltpetre Pink, a combination which Better Flags and Guidons called 'explosive'. 'Saltpetre Pink', in case anyone is wondering, is very



bright. However, this flag was found to clash with Her Majesty's emerald necklace, an exquisite piece set by Tiff N. E. Gaudie of New York (an Arab jeweller with, as is to typical, no taste whatever).

The new flag was a black Maltese cross set over a green St. Andrew's Cross set over an orange St. George's cross, all on an ermine field. However, this clashed with the new drapes in Her Majesty's Summer Palace (it had been made of the old drapes). The next flag was designed by Salvador Dali, but no matter how much the wind blew, it was always limp, so it had to be abandoned. Her Majesty, with the honey touch which has so endeared her to her people, then decided to sew a new flag. She was well along with a nice, if dull, creation of alternating red and white stripes, with a blue canton and stars, when it was pointed out to her that somebody already had one like that.

The next flag, designed by Mario Lasagna, leading tenor at the Rome Opera, was entirely blue, displaying on that field a Bonaparte Egg, a Hapsburg Eagle, a Plantagenet Lion, an Ottoman Star, a Bourbon Bottle, a Romanov Bear, a Sado-Masoch whip, a bowl of spaghetti, a partridge in a pear tree, a Maltese Cross, a Roman Cross, and 17 other unidentifiable objects. It is said that Her Majesty still flies this flag on festive, or possibly funeral, occasions. Flies? Make that 15 unidentifiable objects. ((Arab jeweller? Make that 15. -ed.))

Other flags are seen at various times. The post office often flies a flag in tired mauve, on which is the likeness of a sand crab and the motto 'Forward!'. The Royal Palace, on the other hand, often flies a white flag, rather lacy, in the shape of a lady's undergarment. These are frequently run up the flagpole in groups of six or more, and it has been noted that the shape is not completely standardized. On the high seas, the situation is even more confusing. Some ships still fly the flag of Andrea Phillipina, as is well known from their yeoman service in attempting to rescue (unsuccessfully, alas) survivors from several major naval disasters which have occurred near Italy during the last few years. Chief of Naval Operations Ammirale Eduardo Teachini has often lauded the 'thoroughness and efficiency' of his men and has awarded them small white cloth outlines of ships to sew onto their flags, one for each rescue operation. Other Italian vessels, however, fly a brilliant green flag with a single star in the exact center. The star has anywhere from 4 to 11 points, and has been seen in white, yellow, red, black, violet, pink, lavender, brown, corise, chartreuse, orange, gold, aquamarine, blue, and various plaids, polka-dots and other patterns. Both flags are also seen with the Italian merchant marine, the green flag generally being flown by the less prosperous lines.

Abroad, Italian embassies, which usually double as pizza palaces, spaghetti spas, or cacciators castles, fly flags which look like red-and-white checked tablecloths. Pizza? Make that 14 unidentifiable objects.

Italian army units are generally furnished with plain white flags, and the soldiers are encouraged to add to them any design they wish. These designs, while colorful and interesting, cannot be described here, ranging as they do from obscene to unbelievable. Each Italian military organization, however, preserves a number of these flags in their original undecorated state, 'in case of emergency.'

Her Majesty has been urged several times to sign a decree specifying the national flag, but so far she has refused. She has felt that the designs submitted clash with one thing or another. There is now a rumor



that she is considering returning to the 'basic black' of her grandmother; however adding, not the skull and crossbones of her mother, but a string of pearls. At the moment, the debate seems to center about the pearls: Should they be natural or cultured?

ROME: Jesus Bar-Sheva is coming! Duck!

ROME (25 Sept. 1901): The state visit of Queen Lurline of France to Queen Sara-Allene of Italy was climaxed today by an argument over possession of Corsica and a hair-pulling contest fully as exciting as the fight between Senta and Brunnhilde in the latest Wagnerian masterpiece "Siegfried's Bride Meets the Daughter of the Flying Dutchman in Nuremberg." After the royal contestants were separated, Queen Lurline went home shrieking, "Corsica is ours, dammit, and our name is Lurleen, you clods, LurLEEN!" Said Queen Sara-Allene, "She looks pretty stout to us," and went back to reading her new shipment of Super-Wagner comic books from Payola, the capital of Oklahoma.

JAKUL: Today was the big day for Italian trinket fans, as the will of the late Herbert Hofsnodder, Italophile and manure packer, was probated. The will specified that, to provide money for paying legitimate debts, the famous collection of Italian flags that Hofsnodder had accumulated for over forty years would be auctioned. The Hofsnodder flag collection, comprising over 78,000 separate items and roughly 190,000 duplicates, is the largest accumulation of Italian flags in the world, not excepting Italy and Albania. (Rumors of a larger collection four years ago were squelched when the claimant turned out to be the Cannon Towel Company.) Among the extreme rarities in the Hofsnodder collection, generally the only known representatives of the design in existence, include the 1899 Ethiopian Lancers 'Go-Get-'em' standard; the 1899 Ethiopian Lancers 'Give-'em-hell' standard; the 1899 Ethiopian Lancers 'Kick-the-shit-out-of-'em' standard; fifty or sixty unprintable Ethiopian Lancers flags of the same year; the prized 1900 Elephant Flag, on which the elephant was seen upside-down, thus making the elephant appear to be a pregnant cow in the act of self-disembowelment; the 1889 Imperial Tattle-Tale-Gray Flag (catalogued both as Scott #8996B under Flags and Scott #651 under Disrags); three copies of the 1900 merchant flag featuring a green field with a pinkish five-pointed star - the star in each case being a starfish stapled on; and the rarest item of all, the 1893 Anglo-Italian Friendship flag, with a quilted field, the British Lion, the Italian Meatball, and the entire text of Milton's 'Paradise Lost' in both English and Italian embroidered in red silk thread.

John Milton? Make that 15 unidentifiable objects.

MOSCOW (1 June 1901) (CTP): Tsar Nicholas returned today from his tour of the new Grand Duchy of Rumania. 'The fleet has successfully fortified Constanta, and the people of Rumania seem genuinely happy to be part of the prosperous Russian Empire, all except 238,715 malcontents whom we have found it necessary to execute for terrorist activities. As a precaution we have sealed the borders with Bulgaria and Austria, but this is not intended to be taken as enmity. We have the most gracious relationship with both these countries. I would very much like to say the same for Turkey, but the Russian government can only view the entry of the Turkish Grand Fleet into the Black Sea as a grave provocation, and a barrier to continued relationships.



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NIKOLEVSKY (14 June 1901)(CTP): Reports of the Tsar's press conference reached this outpost today. Colonel Popogord, his regiment back to full strength after a vigorous recruiting campaign ("The new action army wants you to join it - or else!"), announced a full battle readiness. In his orders of the day he referred to His Imperial Majesty's concern over the Turkish actions, and pledged to be ready to defend the Empire to the last draftee, up to the rank of corporal.

NIKOLEVSKY (16 June 1901)(CTP): Colonel Grand Duke Alexei Popogord today announced the capture and execution as a spy of one Jack E. Leonard. "The spy, obviously a Turkish agent, tried to disguise himself as a Mesopotamia expert scholar from the University of Jamul. This disguise was quickly penetrated, as it is well known that Jamul has no University, no school, no city, and no nothing else except the world's tallest inmate in a mental institution. The spy then claimed to be a reporter for Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten und Vornehmsten Cobotes, but as this is well known to be merely the figment of the mentally deranged imagination of that world's tallest inmate, he was immediately shot."

JAMUL: Master Spy Henry J. Krajewski, a distant cousin to the late Jack E. Leonard, today declared war on Russia by the expedient of posting a hand-written index card on the Jamul Community Bulletin Board. The card read, "Avenge the fallen leaders. Sign up now to attack the Russkies and get a free trip to Sacramento. Side trips to picket the Legislature for welfare reform and property tax relief. Hogs for sale, inquire Krajewski Ranch, Deershorn Springs Road. Henry J. Krajewski."

JAMUL: The world's tallest mental patient (up to the rank of Medical Corporal), who shall remain anonymous, today announced the publication of the latest issue of his remarkable magazine, Die Schuldigkeit etc. However, in response to an angry letter from one subscriber, Robert J. Rord, insinuating that the magazine was "a figment of your mentally deranged imagination," the patient announced that "since it's only a figment of my mind, obviously it does not exist; therefore I shall not bother to send Mr. Rord a copy."

JAMUL: Watch it, you goddamned uppity Republican, you're killing off my characters and wrecking my press releases. How would you like me to arrange the demise of Colonel Popogord by being skewered on a 45-rpm record spindle? How would you like that? Huh? NYAAH.

WANNTRIED (Wagnermas 1901): The supreme prelate of the National German-Wagnerite Church, Friedrich Nietzsche, today celebrated the Feast of the World Rapture which is a memorial of the Coming of Wagner. "On this date eighty-eight years ago, Wagner (His Name be Blessed) deigned to come into the world," he said. "On that most Glorious Day in history all nature responded to His Coming. The earth shook, volcanoes erupted, and even the rocks and stones sang His praises. ((And it sounded a hell of a lot better than Tristan - cd.)) Today we remember this event as the most significant point in space-time."

Worshippers had hoped to catch a glimpse of His Imperial Majesty, Koton von Koltosche, Emperor of the Wagnerreich, but His Majesty was off wandering somewhere.

BAYREUTH (26 July 1901): Back from his wanderings, the Emperor had the following statement: "As I ran out into the world, following the sound of my Master's voice, my heart pounded in my breast and my hot, red blood raced through my body with joy unbounded...." u.s.w. ((Turns you on, eh? -cd.)) Pelled down to its essences, the Emperor's five-hour



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speech concerned his wanderings in Russia, where he heard the speech of Grand Duke Popogord. He followed the 17th Cossacks to Nikolevsky where he noted a peculiarity: While the Cossacks were being chewed to bits, the Duke was protected from the wolves. The Emperor concluded that Russian foreign policy leaned more towards Popogord's sentiments than first appearances would indicate. The Emperor is turning a suspicious eye toward the East.

WITH The Imperial First Army in the Field near Insbeck (19 Aug. 1901): The First Army is on the move! Ever since March 21, the dwarves of the First have been on a forced march. When asked to comment on the unusual speed of the army, its commanding general, Field Marshal Siegfried von Maelso, said, "Yes, we are doing almost one kilometer per day. I know that doesn't sound like much, but when your army has an average stride of only four inches you don't move very fast. Nevertheless, we should be in position for our fall offensive."

MAELI (15 Aug. 1971): A young prostitute named McBride

Took a self-appendectomy in stride.

But she got out of whack

And cowed the wrong crack,

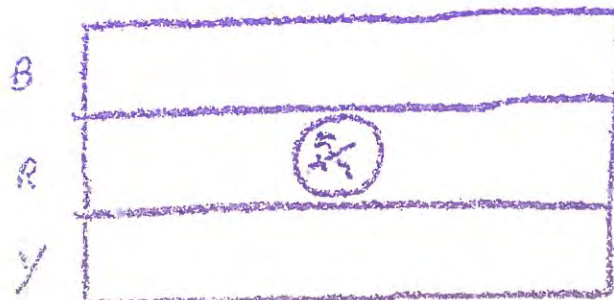
So she now does her job on the side?

### THE GERMAN FLAG AND ITS HISTORY

For more than a thousand years the flag of the Holy Roman Empire, the predecessor of modern Germany, was black, red and gold. In 1843 liberals seeking to unite the German peoples raised the same colors in the form of a flag with three equal, horizontal stripes. During the reign of Wilhelm, this flag was replaced, but after the Civil War of 1864-5, in which most of Germany's royalty was killed, Ludwig II of Bavaria was declared Emperor. Ludwig's reign was short but highly effective. Among his accomplishments were the founding of the national German-Wagnerite Church, the industrialization of the Reich and the return of the flag of 1848. Ludwig ordered that the flag be modified as follows:

1. The third stripe was to be yellow.
2. A golden ring was placed in the center of the red stripe.
3. The interior of the ring was to be white.
4. A spear and a sword were crossed at the center of the circle.

See Figure One (below).

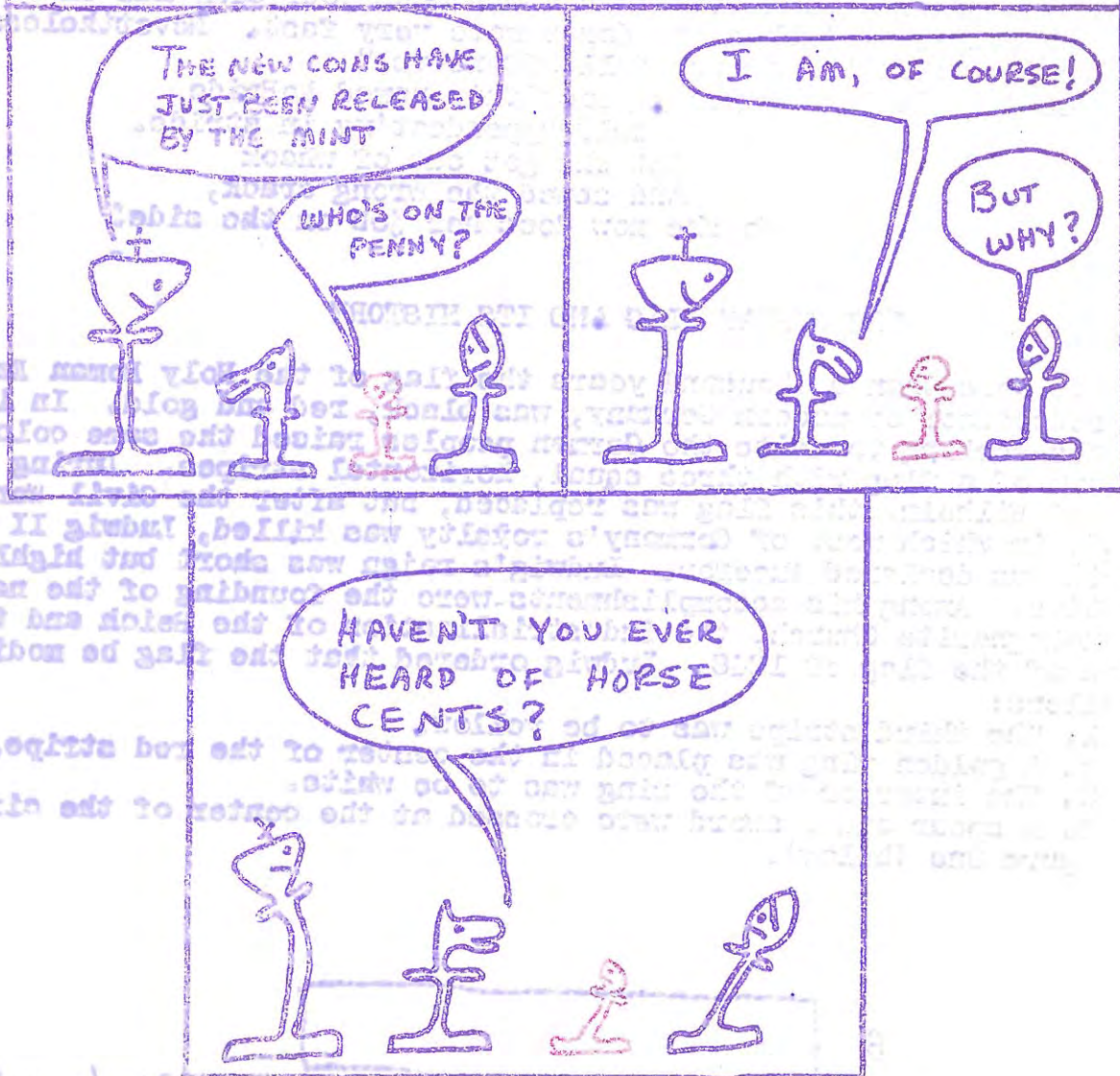


Circle white  
w/ gold border;  
symbols black.

FIG. 1



# CHess NUTS by Phil Fuckley



Eric